Promotion of organic farming

3334. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive plan to promote organic farming in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO N ARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) In order to promote organic farming for export market, the National Steering Committee set up by Ministry of Commerce approved, on 2nd May, 2001, the National Programme for Organic Production under which model organic farms have been set up, awareness programmes have been taken up, standard accreditation procedures, inspection and certification procedures etc. have been finalized.

For further promoting organic farming in the country during the Tenth Plan, a proposal for a new scheme, "National Project on Organic Farming" is under formulation by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, which includes setting up a National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB), whose function will be to promote and facilitate various aspects of organic farming in the country.

Co-operative societies in Rajasthan

3335. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of co-operative societies functioning at present in Rajasthan;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided to them during the last four years; and

(c) the details of items distributed in the State during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) 10930 Cooperative Societies are functioning at present in Rajasthan as reported by the State Government.

(b) The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has released financial assistance of Rs. 2136.69 lakhs, Rs. 655.00 lakhs, Rs. 912.01

lakhs and Rs. 1039.31 lakhs during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively to the State of Rajasthan under the various activities. The State Government has also provided financial assistance of Rs. 15,839.43 lakhs in the form of subsidy, share capital and loan to the cooperative societies during the last four years as under:—

Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1998-99	5202.74
1999-2000	5279.16
2000-2001	2655.81
2001-2002	2701.72
TOTAL:	15839.43

(c)The consumable items like levy sugar, wheat, edible oil, cloths, pulses, daily consumable commodities, general provisions, consmetics, stationery, allopathic and ayurvedic medicines and agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, cattle jfeed had been distributed by cooperative agencies during last four years in the State of Rajasthan.

Growth rate of agriculture sector

3336. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth rate in agriculture has shown a lot of improvement in 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is its likely impact on the overall economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEONARAYANYADAV): (a) to (c)Yes, Sir. The growth rate of the sector, "Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing" according to the Advance Estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) was 5.7% for the year 2001-2002 as compared to (-)0.2% in the previous year, which was mainly due to increase in the production of most of the major crops.

The tentative assessment of production of major crops in 2001-2002 vis-a-vis the production in the previous year is as follow:—